

March 8, 2007

Meeting Notes- Land Use Committee

1. Members present: Chuck Roady, Turner Askew, Jeff Harris, Kerry Finley, Karen Reeves, Velvet Phillips-Sullivan, Myrt Webb. One member of the public was also present.
2. There were no changes to the agenda.
3. Jeff Harris present two maps to the committee
  - a. Constraint map showing areas where development is precluded by physical constraints. The primary constraint areas were in the vicinity of water bodies.
  - b. Population Density map showing by section population densities. Not included were city planning areas for Whitefish and Columbia Falls. Density information was compiled by septic permit data from the health department.
4. Myrt Webb present data on traffic and solid waste generation in the county.
  - a. Spreadsheets and narrative was provided to the committee from last year's transportation report. Data included state traffic counts for the years, 1990, 2000 and 2004. County traffic counts were provided for 1998 and 2004/2005.
  - b. The county has "green box" sites spread throughout the county for household trash. Collection data was presented for the years 1998, 2001 and 2004. Data showed how solid waste generation from the green box sites and from incorporated areas compared for the data years.
5. General discussion followed. Some of the subjects discussed were:
  - a. The capacity of treatment plants. Several wastewater treatment plants in the Valley are nearing capacity.
  - b. The historic growth pattern of 2/3rds the population in the county and 1/3 in incorporated areas may be changing with more growth going to the cities.
  - c. The use of more public transit to reduce future traffic congestion.
  - d. The cost of fire suppression in the urban/forest interface.

6. The next meeting will be 22 March and data collection will continue. Items for the next meeting:
  - a. Jeff Harris will bring some other maps that will be useful to the committee.
  - b. Myrt Webb will present some county cost data and data on power hookups.
  - c. Turner Askew will provide a utility map.
  - d. Chuck Roady will provide data on fire suppression.
  - e. Myrt Webb asked everyone to look at Chapter One of the Growth Policy for data on public attitudes toward growth.